

*Levittown*

April 13, 1960

MEMORANDUM

TO: Human Relations Councils  
FROM: Harold A. Lett  
SUBJECT: Request for Materials

Although this is not for publication, I am sure you will be interested to know that Aline and I are working with Levitt & Sons firm in Burlington County, New Jersey, assisting them in making the initial steps toward the integration of their town. You may have seen news stories appearing recently which seem to contradict each other, but for the sake of clarity, let me say that Levitt is continuing with his appeal to the United States Supreme Court in his original intent to test both the constitutionality and the applicability of the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination to Levitt operations. However hopeful he may be that the United States Supreme Court either will review or reverse the action of the New Jersey Supreme Court, it is certain that he wants it clear that the law that applies to him will also have equal bearing upon the operations of his competitors in New Jersey and in other states having Anti-discrimination laws in Housing. The other statement to the effect that he is proceeding with a program of Racial Integration in Levittown, New Jersey, is a fact and it is in this connection that Mrs. Lett and I are serving as resource persons.

I think it is important to assure you that before accepting invitation of the firm to work with them as consultants, we made every reasonable check with lawyers who have represented the interests of the public in New Jersey, to be assured by them that this step toward integration is in no way interfering with or diluting the legal process and the ultimate complete integration of the Levittown project. Likewise, we have been given adequate assurance that this move does not in any way, propose (a) to represent simply a token placement of Negroes; (b) lead to any form of segregation or congregation of Negroes in a particular area; or (c) set up any differential in selective criteria or financial or other standards that would litigate against the normal movement of Negro home buyers into the community. Our role is

that of helping create all of the necessary machinery that will make the first admissions of Negro home owners to Levittown to be an uneventful and successful process.

In connection with all of this, therefore, one thing that has already transpired has been the appointment of a Human Relations Council for Levittown township which is the project community. The township committee has appointed a group of highly intelligent and responsible individuals to this council and these members are taking their job seriously. Theron Johnson and I have undertaken the role of presenting to them an intensive orientation course which will begin within the next few days. In the meantime, these members are particularly anxious to have before them, some material that will spell out what should be the scope of their activity and the methods they may reasonably employ. Accordingly, we have promised that we would get to them at the very earliest possible moment, material from active and successful Human Relations Councils that have functioned on the local level, hence this appeal to you.

Will you, therefore, send at your earliest convenience, from one to fifteen copies of such material as will help these people in achieving some orientation and acquiring prospective. We would suggest the following:

1. Constitution and by-laws or other rules of procedure in the organization process.
2. Outlines of general and of specific programs as well as program aids.
3. Reports of various kinds, relating to the particular projects and relating to periodical or annual activities.
4. Brochures that you may have developed in the course of your operations.

Will you please send this material at your very earliest convenience addressed to Mr. John Bander, Chairman, Levittown Township, Human Relations Council, 11 Stirrup Lane, Levittown, New Jersey.

It is needless to say that if this whole project can be consummated effectively and fully some time in the reasonably near future, this will be one of the biggest feathers in the cap of those interested in open occupancy housing in the private field. I know that I can count on your cooperation and active support.

Thank you.